

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claims(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1 1. (amended) For use in a communications system, a system for extending the range
2 of a wireless headset comprising:
3 a phone;
4 a wireless headset associated with said phone, said wireless headset capable of
5 communicating directly with said phone utilizing a wireless communications protocol having a
6 distance limit;
7 a communications system; and
8 a plurality of access points each coupled to said communications system at one of
9 a plurality of dispersed locations, wherein said access points are capable of selectively
10 establishing a communications path within said communications system between an access point
11 emulating said phone and an access point emulating said headset to provide communications
12 between said phone and said headset when said phone and said headset are separated by a
13 distance greater than said distance limit.

Please add the following new claims:

1 2. (newly added) The system of claim 1 wherein each access point is capable of
2 selectively:
3 emulating said phone utilizing said communications protocol,
4 emulating said headset utilizing said communications protocol,
92 5 communicating with said phone within said finite distance from said phone utilizing said
6 communications protocol,
7 communicating with said headset within said finite distance from said headset utilizing
8 said communications protocol, and
9 interfacing with said communications system.

1 3. (newly added) The system of claim 2 wherein said phone and said headset
2 communicate utilizing Bluetooth and said access points are each capable of emulating said phone
3 and said headset utilizing Bluetooth.

1 4. (newly added) The system of claim 1 wherein said phone and said headset are
2 separated by a distance greater than said distance limit, but said phone is separated from a first
3 access point by a distance not greater than said distance limit and said headset is separated from
4 a second access point by a distance not greater than said distance limit.

1 5. (newly added) The system of claim 4 wherein said first access point emulates
2 said headset in communicating with said phone and said second access point emulates said phone
3 in communicating with said headset.

1 6. (newly added) The system of claim 5 wherein said communications path within
2 said communications system couples said first and second access points.

1 7. (newly added) The system of claim 6 wherein communications from said phone
2 received at said first access point are forwarded via said communications path to said second
3 access point for transmission to said headset and communications from said headset received at
4 said second access point are forwarded via said communications path to said first access point
5 for transmission to said phone.

1 8. (newly added) The system of claim 4 wherein said distance limit is a Bluetooth
2 wireless headset distance limit.

1 9. (newly added) The system of claim 1 wherein said phone and said headset
2 communicate directly when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance not greater
3 than the distance limit and communicate via said communications path between two access
4 points when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance
5 limit.

1 10. (newly added) The system of claim 1 wherein said access points are capable of
2 detecting when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance
3 limit or whether said phone and said headset are communicating directly.

1 11. (newly added) For use in a communications system, a method for extending the
2 range of a wireless headset , said method comprising the operations of:

3 associating a wireless headset with a phone, said wireless headset capable of
4 communicating directly with said phone utilizing a wireless communications protocol having a
5 distance limit; and

6 coupling each of a plurality of access points to a communications system at one of
7 a plurality of dispersed locations, wherein said access points are capable of selectively
8 establishing a communications path within said communications system between an access point
9 emulating said phone and an access point emulating said headset to provide communications
10 between said phone and said headset when said phone and said headset are separated by a
11 distance greater than said distance limit.

1 12. (newly added) The method of claim 11 further comprising the operations of
2 enabling each access point to selectively:

3 emulate said phone utilizing said communications protocol,
4 emulate said headset utilizing said communications protocol,
5 communicate with said phone within said finite distance from said phone utilizing
6 said communications protocol,
7 communicate with said headset within said finite distance from said headset
8 utilizing said communications protocol, and
9 interface with said communications system.

1 13. (newly added) The method of claim 12 further comprising the operations of:
2 utilizing Bluetooth for communications between said phone and said headset; and
3 enabling each said access point to emulate said phone and said headset utilizing
4 Bluetooth.

Q2 1 14. (newly added) The method of claim 11 further comprising the operation of:
2 separating said phone and said headset by a distance greater than said distance
3 limit without separating said phone from a first access point or said headset from a second access
4 point by a distance greater than said distance limit.

1 15. (newly added) The method of claim 14 further comprising the operations of:
2 emulating said headset in communicating with said phone utilizing said first
3 access point; and
4 emulating said phone in communicating with said headset utilizing said second
5 access point.

1 16. (newly added) The method of claim 15 further comprising the operation of:
2 coupling said first and second access points by said communications path within
3 said communications system.

1 17. (newly added) The method of claim 16 further comprising the operation of:
2 forwarding communications from said phone received at said first access point via
3 said communications path to said second access point for transmission to said headset; and
4 forwarding communications from said headset received at said second access
5 point via said communications path to said first access point for transmission to said phone.

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1 18. (newly added) The method of claim 14 wherein said operation of separating said
2 phone and said headset by a distance greater than said distance limit without separating said
3 phone from a first access point or said headset from a second access point by a distance greater
4 than said distance limit further comprises:
5 separating said phone and said headset by a distance greater than a Bluetooth
6 wireless headset distance limit.

1 19. (newly added) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 enabling said phone and said headset to communicate directly when said phone
3 and said headset are separated by a distance not greater than the distance limit and to
4 communicate via said communications path between two access points when said phone and said
5 headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit.

1 20. (newly added) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 enabling said access points to detect when said phone and said headset are
3 separated by a distance greater than said distance limit or whether said phone and said headset
4 are communicating directly.
